

la Vélo
Francette®

FROM NORMANDY
TO THE ATLANTIC

ROAD BOOK

Angers - La Rochelle



{ 330 KM
6 STAGES } { 7 DAYS
6 NIGHTS }

la Vélo Francette®

FROM OUISTREHAM TO LA ROCHELLE

SUCH A FRENCHY BIKE RIDE



« Mon ciel bleu, mon horizon,
ma grande route et ma rivière,
ma prairie et ma maison...

Douce France, cher
 pays de mon enfance...



The Vélo Francette® itinerary.

The Vélo Francette® itinerary / green ways.

Cycle itineraries accessible from the Vélo Francette®.

Towns served by the TGV train.

Towns served by Corail and TER local trains.

Want to branch off or only go along a section of the Vélo Francette® ?

Numerous TGV and TER stations along the itinerary let you easily join the Vélo Francette®. You also have the possibility of joining another cycle itinerary.

la Vélo Francette®, a new signposted 630 km cycling trail that sounds like a Charles Trenet song... the every essence of *Douce France!*

This itinerary has been devised to tour the country in slow tourism mode, from Oustreham-Riva-Bella to La Rochelle, the route interconnects with the La Véloscénie®, La Loire à Vélo® and La Vélodyssée® cycling trails.

Starting out from the beaches of Normandy, riding through the Norman countryside, down through the Mayenne valley touching on the Val de Loire then crossing the Marais Poitevin to reach the Atlantic coast...

La Vélo Francette® is a genuine road-movie in an authentic French setting.

This very pleasant trail never strays far from a river : the Orne, Mayenne, Loire, Thouet and the Sèvre near Niort peppered with Guinguettes, bike bars and highly original accommodation options : hippie trailers, lodges on stilts on the river bank, a fish-hook workshop transformed into a hotel, an ancient stable, fifties style villas, water mills, lock-keeper houses...





THE ACCUEIL VÉLO® LABEL

Accueil Vélo® is a national label that guarantees a warm welcome and top quality services to cycling tourists along the cycling trails. The label concerns 5 types of services : Accommodation, Bike rental, Bike repairs, Places to visit or Leisure activities, Tourist information centres.

An Accueil Vélo® establishment is a guarantee for cycling tourists that :

- They are less than 5km from a cycling trail
- The right equipment needed is available : Secure bicycle shelter, repair kit
- They are given a warm, attentive welcome : useful information and tips (circuits, weather, ...)
- Services are available for cyclists : luggage transfer, clothes washing and drying, rental of bicycles and accessories, washing of bicycles,...



To the extent possible, the service providers indicated in this document have been chosen because they belong to the Accueil Vélo® network. The logo will help you identify them.

FOREWORD

Present at every stage on the route, the different providers suggested in this document have been selected for the quality of the services offered to cyclists. The owners of the accommodation in this document agreed to be contacted by Tour Operators in order to define the conditions of their partnership with them. This document is not intended to be exhaustive. It seeks to meet the needs of a customer target that has been defined with European operators and whose characteristics are as follows :

- Clientele of individuals or groups,
- One week stay,
- Main expectations focused on heritage, history and nature,
- Accommodation mainly in 2* and 3* hotels, guest houses,
- Kilometric distance travelled between 35 to 55km/day,
- Level of difficulty : easy to moderate.

BIKE RENTAL

Providers offering bike rentals and an adapted service

. BAYEUX

LOC VÉLO

locvelo.fr - ☎ +33 (0)6 46 34 37 21

LE HOM

THURY PLEIN AIR

thury-plein-air.fr - ☎ +33 (0)2 31 79 40 10

. CHÂTEAU-GONTIER et alentours

CANOTIKA – Château-Gontier

pagayons.fr/canotika - ☎ +33 (0)2 53 68 50 11 +33 (0)6 15 49 28 73

. ANGERS et alentours

ANJOU SPORT NATURE – La Jaille Yvon

anjousportnature.com - ☎ +33 (0)2 41 95 14 32

VERT EVENT – Angers

vert-event-angers.fr - ☎ +33 (0)2 72 72 54 44

DÉTOURS DE LOIRE – Angers

locationdevelos.com - ☎ +33 (0)2 41 87 13 09

ESPACE 2 ROUES – Angers

espace-2-roues.fr - ☎ +33 (0)2 41 87 69 46

. SAUMUR et Alentours

DÉTOURS DE LOIRE – Saumur

locationdevelos.com - ☎ +33 (0)2 41 53 01 01

VÉLO SPOT – Saumur

velospot.fr - ☎ +33 (0)2 41 38 94 06

. NIORT et alentours

LE BEAU VELO DE ROBIGO – Niort

lebeauveloderobigo.fr - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 34 68 31

LES VÉLOS DU MARAIS POITEVIN – Magné

embarcadere-cardinaud.fr/ - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 35 90 47

LA LIBELLULE – Magné

lemaraispoitevin.fr - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 35 83 42

LA BICYCLETTE VERTE – Arcais

bit.ly/location-velos-bicyclette-verte - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 35 42 56

. LA ROCHELLE et alentours

FRANCE VÉLO – La Rochelle

francevelo.bike - ☎ +33 (0)7 68 73 98 31

CYCLING TOUR – La Rochelle

cycling-tour.fr - ☎ +33 (0)5 46 55 24 74

CYCLABLE – La Rochelle

la-rochelle.cyclable.com

✉ +33 (0)9 83 08 17 25

VÉLOVOLT – La Rochelle

velovolt.fr - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 35 42 56

CYCLOMANIA – La Rochelle

cyclomania17.blogspot.fr

✉ +33 (0)5 46 37 53 42

ECOVÉLO – La Rochelle

ecovelo17.com - ☎ +33 (0)5 46 56 13 78

Elevation Profile :

The elevation profile has been drawn for you to give you such information as the type of roads, the positive and negative cumulative elevation, the altitude, the main stopovers. More complete information can be found on the site lavelofrancette.com

Topoguides



Guide La Vélo Francette published by Ouest-France and Chamina



GETTING TO/FROM THE ACCESS TOWNS

. Getting from/to OUISTREHAM

Brittany Ferries - Crossing Portsmouth-Ouistreham 3 times per day
brittany-ferries.fr

. Transport from/to OUISTREHAM

Paris/Caen - 230km - 2h45
 Paris/Caen - Intercités - 2h00

Caen-Carpiquet airport

caen.aeroport.fr
 3 flights/day from Paris Roissy-Charles de Gaulle (AirFrance)
 3 flights/day from London Southend (FlyBe)

. Transport from/to FLERS

Paris / Flers - 240km - 3h40
 Paris Montparnasse / Flers - 2h30 - Intercités
ter.sncf.com/normandie

. Transport from/to LAVAL

Paris/Laval - 280km - 3h00 via A81 and A11
 Paris/Laval - TGV - 1h30

. Transport from/to ANGERS

Paris/Angers - 295km - 3h10 via A11
 Paris/Angers - TGV - 1h40
 Angers-Marcé Airport
 angersloireaeropорт.fr
 Nantes Atlantique Airport
 nantes.aeroport.fr - accessible by train or car 100km 1h via A11

. Transport from/to NIORT

Paris/Niort - 410km - 4h via A10
 Paris/Niort - TGV - 2h00
 La Rochelle Airport - Ile de Re :
 larochelle.aeroport.fr less than 1 hour away
 The Nantes Atlantique and Bordeaux airports are less than 2 hours away.

. Transport from/to La ROCHELLE

Paris / La Rochelle - 480km - 5h00
 Paris / La Rochelle - TGV - 3h00
 La Rochelle Airport
 larochelle.aeroport.fr
 Nantes, Bordeaux or Paris airports accessible by train

HOW TO TRAVEL WITH YOUR BIKE

By train



In the TER trains (Regional Express Train), bicycles travel for free, hung up or placed in a space provided for this purpose. However, since the number of bicycle spaces is limited, you are advised not to travel with a bike during peak hours.

It is mandatory to book a space for your bicycle when travelling with a bike on Main line and Intercité train services.

It is also possible to travel on any train if you dismount your bike without paying a supplement and without having to book in advance within the limit of seats available. For this, it must be transported in a carrying case (Dimensions 120x90 cm) and is then considered as a piece of hand luggage.

In any case, take special care as regards any restrictions related to peak traffic.

For more information velo.sncf.com

francevelotourisme.com/contenus/preparation-et-conseils/train-velo

Other means of transport



There are other alternatives when travelling with a bike. Service providers can transport your bike to the trail's arrival and departure points. Some rental companies let you borrow a bicycle to go from point A to point B where you can drop it off.

LOC VÉLO – Caen

locvelo.fr
 ☎ +33 (0)6 46 34 37 21

VERT EVENT – Angers

vert-event-angers.fr
 ☎ +33(0)2 72 72 54 44

DÉTOURS DE LOIRE – Angers

locationdevelos.com
 ☎ +33(0)2 41 87 13 09

DÉTOURS DE LOIRE – Saumur

locationdevelos.com
 ☎ +33(0)2 41 53 01 01

LA BICYCLETTE VERTE – Niort

bicyclette-verte.com
 ☎ +33 (0)5 49 35 42 56

FRANCEVÉLO – La Rochelle

francevelo.bike
 ☎ +33(0)7.68.73.98.31

LUGGAGE TRANSPORT, PASSENGER TRANSPORT



Service providers can transport your luggage to your next accommodation address. In some cases, they can also transport passengers from point A to point B.

LA BICYCLETTE VERTE

bicyclette-verte.com - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 35 42 56

FRANCEVÉLO

francevelo.bike - ☎ +33(0)7.68.73.98.31

BAGAFRANCE

bagafrance.com ☎ +33(0)7.86.38.41.27

ANDEGAVE COMMUNICATION

☎ +33(0)6.82.84.54.88



Ouistreham

la Vélo Francette

630 KM
À SILLONNER

7 DÉPARTEMENTS
À DÉCOUVRIR

3 PARCS NATURELS
RÉGIONAUX À TRAVERSER

25 VILLES ET VILLAGES
DE CARACTÈRE
À VISITER



ANGERS V43 dep49

Angers © Rocabanel

ANGERS - SAUMUR VIA BORD DE MAINE

CUMULATIVE ELEVATION

306 m 323 m



ANGERS - SAUMUR VIA TRÉLAZÉ

CUMULATIVE ELEVATION

299 m 293 m



Levels of difficulty

Easy - On the part shared with the Loire à Vélo trail, on the right bank between Les Rosiers-sur-Loire and Saint-Martin-de-la-Place: natural surface, not recommended for bikes with trailers (very narrow passages). Four paved sectors at the level of the Loire slipways. Between Saint-Martin-de-la-Place and Saumur Nord, itinerary along the D 952, on a roadway. Both directions Gennes-Saumur et Saumur-Gennes.

DESCRIPTION

From Angers to Saumur, via Bouchemaine. La Vélo Francette shares the trail with La Loire à Vélo. Quite straight forward up to La Daguenière, the itinerary then alternates on small roads in the horticultural valley up to Saint-Mathurin-sur-Loire, then follows the south bank crossing through lovely Loire villages with their quaint churches and freestone houses. The option to leave Angers via the ancient slate site of Trélazé (Eastern variant) offers an unusual atmosphere in a mining and mineral setting.



Angers

63 KM

Saumur

ANGERS SAUMUR THOUARS PARTHENAY NIORT DAMVIX LA ROCHELLE

Great visits



ANGERS : After visiting the old town centre, go along the Balzac Parc (nature in the city), then the Maine lake leisure park..Option : a cable ferry.

BOUCHEMAINE : A great spot for a stroll along the river front. Continue on to the old fishing village La Pointe now chock-a-block with art and craft workshops and stores.

SAINTE-GEMMES-SUR-LOIRE : Follow the banks of the Loire river and feel free to visit the presbytery garden and the Mediterranean garden in any season and in total freedom.

LE THOUREIL : A charming village and former trading port where old traditional boats have been restored.

SAUMUR : A town of art of history, A picturesque town with its château on the side of the hill and the emblems of the wine making and horse riding arts. **Anjou Vélo Vintage** - SAUMUR anjou-velo-vintage.com an event for fans of cycling and all things retro.

Things to do and see



MUSÉE DE L'ARDOISE – Trélazé

lemuseedelardoise.fr

①.+ 33 (0)2 41 69 04 71

LOIRE ODYSSEE ET CROISIÈRES SUR LA LOIRE – Saint-Mathurin-sur-Loire

loire-odyssee.fr - ①.+ 33 (0)2 41 57 37 55

NUMEROUS BUBBLY HOUSES – Saumur Saint-Hilaire-Saint-Florent

Bouvet - Ladubay (bike course, in cellars), Ackerman, Gratien Meyer, Veuve Amiot etc...

saumur-tourisme.com

LE CADRE NOIR – Saumur

ifce.fr - ①.+ 33 (0)2 41 53 50 50

MUSHROOM MUSEUM – Saumur

musee-du-champignon.com

①.+ 33 (0)2 4150 31 55

CRUISES AND SHUTTLES ON THE LOIRE

Saumur - croisieressaumuroises.fr

①.+ 33 (0)7 60 29 66 68

Le Thoureil - revesdeloire.fr

①.+ 33 (0)7 86 18 52 10



Saumur

47KM

Thouars



SAUMUR - THOUARS

CUMULATIVE ELEVATION + 206 m - 130 m



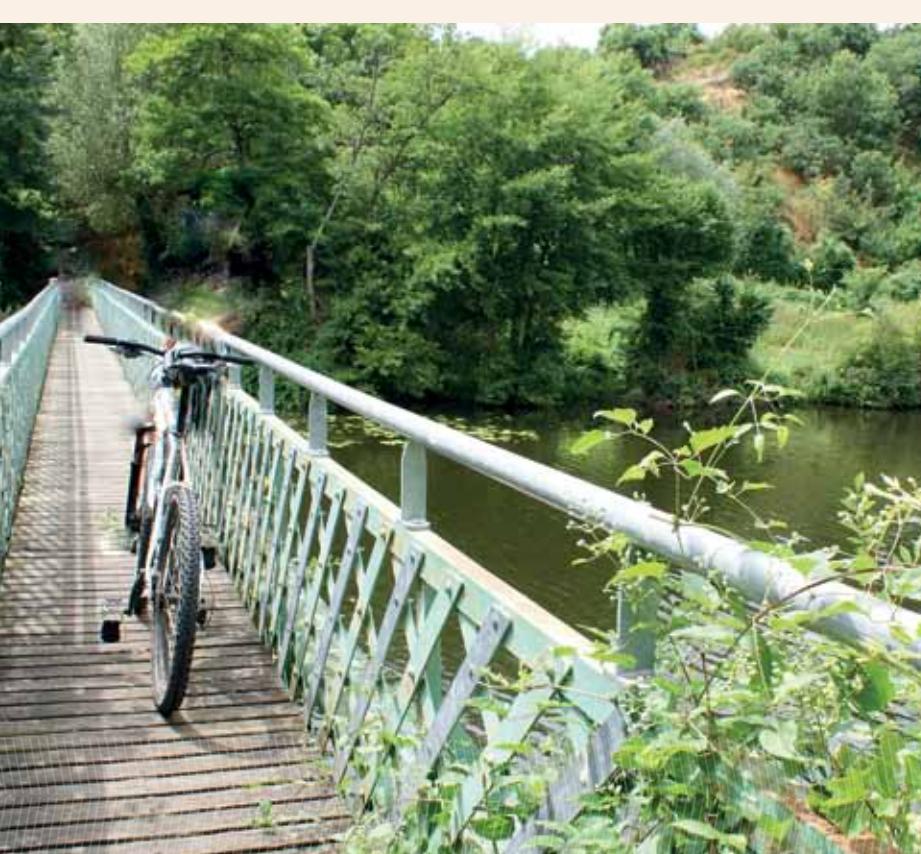
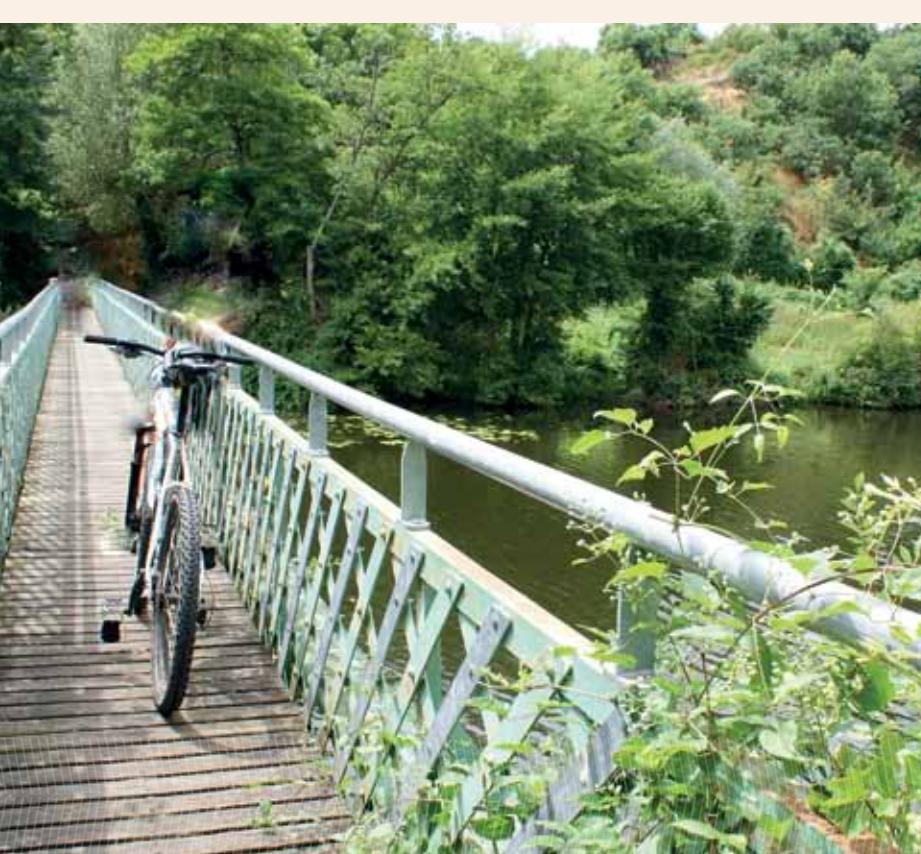
Levels of difficulty

Intermediate - shared route moderate slopes.

DESCRIPTION

From Saumur to Montreuil-Bellay. La Vélo Francette trail follows the green path along the Thouet Valley until we leave Saumur and then we continue on farm tracks and small roads. Through villages, fields and along the Saumur wine growing slopes, this stage ends at the foot of the last fortified town in Anjou, Montreuil-Bellay, a town that benefits from the labels "Les Plus Beaux Détours de France" and "Petites Cités de Caractère".

From Montreuil-Bellay to Thouars. The bicycle trail continues peacefully along the river bank. The Ballastière pond is a lovely place to take a break before continuing on towards Taizon where in past times you had to pay a toll to cross over the old bridge. But Thouars is already looming on the horizon...



Great visits



- ◆ **MONTREUIL - BELLAY** : The city's battlements and fortified gates dominate the landscape between the banks of the Thouet and the upper town. This is the land of tiles and slate. A visit to this "Petites Cités de Caractère" is a must!
- ◆ **LE PONT DE TAIZON** : Dating from the XIIIth century, you had to pay a toll to cross this bridge in past times. You just must visit this extraordinary edifice.
- ◆ **THOUARS, A CITY OF ART AND HISTORY** : This ancient medieval city, sitting atop its rocky spur, nestled in a twist of the Thouet river, made of freestone and slate, has been named a City of Art and History. Go down its small streets in the Saint-Médard quarter, see its half-timberedhouses and discover the majestic Château des Ducs de la Trémouille. Down from the city, go out to the Chouans bridge and enjoy the magnificent view. Visit the museums and follow the traces of the rich History of Thouars : Moulin de Crevant eco-museum, Henri Barré Museum, "Resistance and Liberty" Regional Centre, Thouars Geological Interpretation Centre. thouars.fr/vah

Things to do and see



TANK MUSEUM – Saumur

museedesblindes.fr - ☎ +33 (0)2 41 83 69 95

COMBIER DISTILLERY – Saumur

combiert.fr - ☎ +33 (0)2 41 40 23 02

MAISON DES VINS D'ANJOU – Saumur

⌚ +33 (0)2 41 17 68 20

MONTREUIL BELLAY CHÂTEAU – Montreuil Bellay

⌚ chateau-de-montreuil-bellay.fr / ☎ +33 (0)2 41 52 33 06

CHÂTEAU DES DUCS DE LA TRÉMOÏLLE

Saint-Laon church, Saint-Médard quarter, Henri Barré museum – Thouars

⌚ thouars.fr/vpah - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 68 22 80

"RESISTANCE AND LIBERTY" REGIONAL CENTRE – Thouars

⌚ crrl.fr - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 66 42 99

THOUARS GEOLOGICAL

INTERPRETATION CENTRE – Thouars

⌚ thouars-communaute.fr

⌚ +33 (0)5 49 66 42 18

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Luggage transfer for this stage

FRANCEVELO

francevelo.bike
①.+ 33 (0)7 68 73 98 31

ANDÉGAVE COMMUNICATION

①.+33(0)6.82.84.54.88

HÉRAULT NICOLAS TAXI

①.+ 33 (0)5 49 96 31 98

CLISSON TAXI

①.+ 33 (0)5 49 96 12 15

Tourist information centres

SAUMUR VAL DE LOIRE

saumur-tourisme.com
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 40 20 60

LE PAYS THOUARSAIS TOURIST INFORMATION

79100 - Thouars
tourisme-pays-thouarsais.fr
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 66 17 65



Accommodations*

. SAUMUR and surrounding area

HOTEL ** ANNE D'ANJOU**
32 Quai Mayaud - 49400 Saumur
hotel-anneanjou.com
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 67 30 30

HOTEL ** MERCURE BORD DE LOIRE**
1 Rue du Vieux Pont - 49400 Saumur
lelondres.com - ①.+ 33 (0)2 41 67 22 42

HOTEL ** SAINT PIERRE**
8 Rue Haute Saint-Pierre - 49400 Saumur
saintpierresaumur.com
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 50 33 00

HOTEL * LES TERRASSES DE SAUMUR**
2 Rue des Lilas - 49400 chemin de l'Alat Saint-Hilaire-Saint Florent
lesterrassesdesaumur.fr
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 67 28 48

HOTEL * BEST WESTERN ADAGIO**
94 Avenue du Général de Gaulle - 49400 Saumur
bestwestern.fr/fr/hotel-Saumur
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 67 45 30

CRISTAL HOTEL***
12 Place de la République - 49400 Saumur
cristal-hotel.fr
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 51 09 54

HOTEL * IBIS STYLE SAUMUR GARE CENTRE**
15 Avenue David d Angers - 49400 Saumur
accorhotels.com/fr/hotel-8820-ibis-styles-saumur-gare-centre/index.shtml
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 67 31 01

HOTEL * DU PARC**
Avenue des fusillés - 49400 Saumur
hotelduparc.fr - ①.+ 33 (0)2 41 67 17 18

KYRIAD HOTEL***
23 Rue Daille - 49400 Saumur
kyriad.com
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 51 05 78

HOTEL * LE LONDRES**
48 Rue d'Orléans - 49400 Saumur
lelondres.com - ①.+ 33 (0)2 41 51 23 98

HOTEL ** ALCYON
2 Rue de Rouen - 49400 Saumur
alcyon-saumur.com
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 67 51 25

HOSTELLERIE** EXCALIBUR

49 Rue de Rouen - 49400 Saumur
hotel-excalibur.com
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 52 29 42

CAMPING***** FLOWER ILE D'OFFARD

Rue de Verden - 49400 Saumur
saumur-camping.com - ①.+ 33 (0)2 41 40 30 00

Between SAUMUR and THOUARS

HOTEL*** CAMPANILE

Carré de Bournan - 49400 Saumur Bagneux
campanile-saumur.fr
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 40 46 46

HOTEL*** LE CHAI DE LA PALEINE

Place Jules Raimbault - 49260 le Puy Notre Dame
paleine.fr
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 38 28 25

CAMPING LES NOBIS D'ANJOU

Rue Georges Girouy - 49260 Montreuil Bellay
campinglesnobis.com
①.+ 33 (0)2 41 52 33 66

HOLIDAY CAMP ** LA BALLASTIÈRE

La Ballastière 79290 Saint-Martin-de-Sanzay
saint-martin-de-sanzay.fr
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 67 72 92

. THOUARS and surrounding area

HOTEL*** DE LA GARE

1 place de la Gare - 79100 Thouars
hotel-de-la-gare79.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 66 20 75

CAMPING MUNICIPAL* DU CLOS IMBERT

Grande côte de Crevant 79100 Thouars
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 66 17 99

GUEST HOUSE LA VILLA DES GLYCINES

7 boulevard Pierre Curie - 79100 Thouars
①.+ 33 (0)9 83 69 73 29

* Check out the full list of accommodation for this stage on the web site lavelofrancette.com





Thouars

67 KM

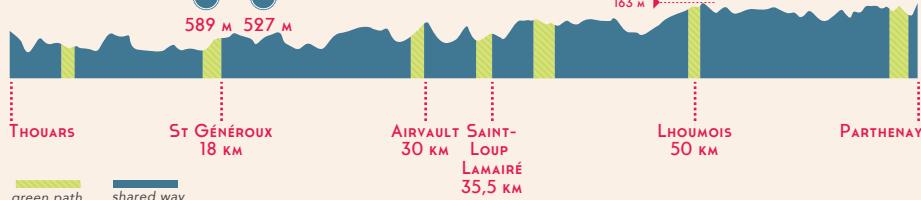
Parthenay

ANGERS SAUMUR THOUARS PARTHENAY NIORT DAMVIX LA ROCHELLE



THOUARS - PARTHENAY

CUMULATIVE ELEVATION



Levels of difficulty

Intermediate - shared route mainly.

Great visits

◆ SAINT-GÉNÉROUX, ITS ROMAN BRIDGE AND PRE-ROMANESQUE CHURCH: Pure gems in the heart of this charming village. A must.

◆ AIRVAULT, PETITES CITÉS DE CARACTÈRE®: it will charm you with its Saint-Pierre Abbey, one of the master pieces of Romanesque art in Poitou, its half-timbered houses, its château from the XIth and XIVth centuries.

◆ SAINT-LOUP-LAMAIRÉ, PETITES CITÉS DE CARACTÈRE®: With its XVIth century Château that apparently inspired Charles Perrault to write Puss in Boots, and its half-timbered houses, Saint-Loup was elected most beautiful village in Deux-Sèvres in 2015.

At the end of June, the small town becomes an outdoor exhibition with numerous painters visiting for the Painting and Sculpture Festival.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Luggage transfer for this stage



FRANCEVELO

francevelo.bike - ☎ +33 (0)7 68 73 98 31

TAXI VAL D'OR - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 64 83 75

ALLO TAXI HÉRAULT - ☎ +33 (0)6 07 31 21 12

ATS 79 - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 64 04 43

ALLO TAXI - ☎ +33 (0)6 16 96 28 05

Bicycle repairs

VÉLO GÂTINE

31 rue grande - 79200 Parthenay

cycles-velo-79.fr - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 71 11 92

Tourist information centres



LE PAYS THOUARSAIS TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE - 79340 Thouars

tourisme-pays-thouarsais.fr

☎ +33 (0)5 49 66 17 65

TOURISM IN GÂTINE

79200 Parthenay

tourisme-gatine.com

☎ +33 (0)5 49 64 24 24

Accommodation*



. THOUARS and surrounding area

HÔTEL*** DE LA GARE

1 place de la Gare - 79100 Thouars

hotel-de-la-gare79.com - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 66 20 75

CAMPING DU CLOS IMBERT

Grande côte de Crevant 79100 Thouars

☎ +33 (0)5 49 66 17 99

GUEST HOUSE LA VILLA DES GLYCINES

7 Boulevard Pierre Curie - 79100 Thouars

☎ +33 (0)9 83 69 73 29

PARTHENAY et aux alentours

* Check out the full list of accommodation for this stage
on the web site lavelofrancette.com

Things to do and see

CÉBRON LAKE

lacducebron.fr

THE FORD GARDENS – Lhoumois

jardinsdugue.eu - ☎ +33 (0)5 49 69 88 52

THE HERITAGE INTERPRETATION AND ARCHITECTURE CENTRE

Parthenay

cc-parthenay-gatine.fr

☎ +33 (0)5 49 94 90 63



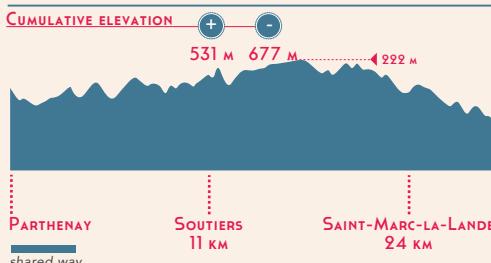
Parthenay

54 KM

Niort



PARTHENAY - NIORT



Levels of difficulty

Intermediate - shared route mainly

DESCRIPTION

From Parthenay to Champdeniers-Saint-Denis. La Vélo Francette trail sets a course for Niort. The Gâtine country is characterised by a more marked relief, with magnificent views of a beautifully preserved nature and countryside at every turn. A stage over small country roads to be savoured to the full.

From Champdeniers-Saint-Denis to Niort. The trail arrives along the banks of the Sèvre Niortaise river, alternating between small roads and country tracks, it winds its way along before settling on the left bank for the arrival in Niort.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Luggage transfer for this stage

FRANCEVELO

francevelo.bike - ①.+ 33 (0)7 68 73 98 31



LA BICYCLETTE VERTE

bicyclette-verte.com - ①.+ 33 (0)5 49 35 42 56

Bicycle repairs

VÉLO GÂTINE

3 rue de Verdun - 79200 Parthenay

cycles-velo-79.fr - ①.+ 33 (0)5 49 71 11 92

CYCLES GUYONNET

105 avenue du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny
79000 Niort - ①.+ 33 (0)5 49 73 98 86



Tourist information centres

TOURISM IN GÂTINE

79200 Parthenay

tourisme-gatine.com - ①.+ 33 (0)5 49 64 24 24



TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE FOR NIORT-MARAISS POITEVIN-VALLÉE DE LA SÈVRE NIORTAISE - 79000 Niort

niortmaraispoitevin.com - ①.+ 33 (0)5 49 24 18 79

Accommodation*



PARTHENAY and surrounding area

HÔTEL*** LE SAINT JACQUES

13 avenue du 114^{ème} Régiment d'Infanterie 79200 Parthenay

hotel-parthenay.com - ①.+ 33 (0)5 49 64 33 33

CAMPING DU MOULIN DE FUMAILLE

Fumailles 79200 La Peyratte camping-fumailles.e-monsite.com - ①.+ 33 (0)5 49 94 34 20

CHAMBRES D'HÔTES LA VILLA AYRAULT

36 route de Thouars - 79200 Chatillon-sur-Thouet
 villa-ayrault.com - ①.+ 33 (0)6 72 01 14 98

. Between PARTHENAY and NIORT

GITE LE RELAIS DE LA TOUR
2 rue des Antonins, relais de la Tour. Saint-Marc-la-Lande - saint-marc-la-lande.fr
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 63 26 12

CHAMBRE D'HÔTE DU PARADIS

Place du paradis 79220 Champdeniers-Saint-Denis
 bienvenueauparadis.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 75 09 26

CHAMBRE D'HÔTE LA MAISON DES CHEVAUX

28 chemin du Puits 79220 Germond-Rouvre
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 04 05 11

. NIORT and surrounding area

HÔTEL**** MERCURE NIORT MARAIS POITEVIN
27 rue de la Terraudière - 79000 Niort
 accorhotels.com/fr/hotel-1269-hotel-mercure-niort-maraism-poitevin/index.shtml
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 24 29 29

HÔTEL*** IBIS STYLE NIORT CENTRE

32-34 avenue de Paris - 79000 Niort
 ibis.com/fr/hotel-8306-ibis-styles-niort-centre-grand-hotel/index.shtml - ①.+ 33 (0)5 49 24 22 21

LOGIS HÔTEL SANDRINA

43 Avenue Saint Jean d'Angely 79000 Niort France
 hotel-sandrina.com ①.+ 33 (0)5 49 79 28 42

CHAMBRES D'HÔTE LOGIS DE SÈVRES

9 rue de Fontenay - 79000 Niort
 chambres-hotes-niort.fr - ①.+ 33 (0)6 87 06 13 24

MEUBLÉ LA MAISON DE CHANTEMERLE

38 bis rue de la Routière - 79000 Niort
 gitesdesfrenales.com/maison-de-chantemerle.html - ①.+ 33 (0)6 08 45 54 06

Great visits



◆ **PARTHENAY**, A Land of Art and History : once you cross the Thouet river you will be struck by the Saint-Jacques Gate as you arrive in front of the city. Go back hundreds of years in time as you stroll along the Vau Saint-Jacques, then visit the château and Sainte-Croix and Saint-Pierre churches.

◆ **THE VAL DE FLORE GARDEN** in Soutiers : set on around 3 hectares, this garden is laid out on the banks of the Viette river making the most of this extraordinary wild setting.

◆ **SAINT-MARC-LA-LANDE COLLEGE**, dating from the early XVIth century, this is the most important flamboyant Gothic type construction in Deux-Sèvres. Here you can visit the Maison du Patrimoine, a Conservatory Orchard and a Medicinal Plant Garden.

Things to do and see



HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE

INTERPRETATION CENTRE – Parthenay

cc-parthenay-gatine.fr
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 94 90 63

GEORGES TURPIN MUSEUM – Parthenay

①.+ 33 (0)5 49 64 53 73

MAISON DU PATRIMOINE

Saint Marc la Lande
 maison-patrimoine.fr
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 63 43 31

COUDRAY-SALBART CHÂTEAU – Echiré

coudralsalbart.fr
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 25 71 07

BERNARD D'AGESCI MUSEUM – Niort

niortagglo.fr/-musee-bernard-d-agesci
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 78 72 00

NIORT DUNGEON – Niort

niortagglo.fr/-Donjon
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 28 14 28





Niort - Damvix

CUMULATIVE ELEVATION + 111 M - 124 M



Levels of difficulty
Easy

DESCRIPTION

From Niort to Coulon. The Marais poitevin Natural Regional Park is a breath-taking place with numerous faces: the beautiful harmony between the pathways and waterways in the wet marshes, the sun and shade, the shelter of the ash trees lining the banks of the canals. Tourists will love this green maze of calm waters and can choose between bicycle or boat rides.

From Coulon to Damvix. Coulon is at the core of the wet marshes, bathed by the Sèvre Niortaise river, and offers cyclists all the services they need on their trip along La Vélo Francette trail. After passing through the marsh, the route goes back to the Sèvre Niortaise river after Irleau. As we approach Damvix, the channelled river takes on a tight trajectory as if it were in a hurry to join up with the ocean.



Things to do and see

BERNARD D'AGESCI MUSEUM – Niort

niortagglo.fr/-musee-bernard-d-agesci
①.+33 (0)5 49 78 72 00

NIORT DUNGEON – Niort

niortagglo.fr/-Donjon
①.+33 (0)5 49 28 14 28

MAISON DU MARAIS POITEVIN – Coulon

maison-marais-poitevin.fr
①.+33 (0)5 49 35 81 04

THE MARAIS POITEVIN ORNITHOLOGICAL PARK – Saint Hilaire la Palud

oiseauxmaraispoitevin.com
①.+33 (0)5 49 26 04 09

DU COQ À L'ÂNE – Saint Georges de Rex

ducoqalane.fr/asinerie-du-marais-poitevin.htm
①.+33 (0)5 49 35 06 28

◆ Head off to discover the **MARAIS POITEVIN VILLAGES**: you will be surprised by their beauty and **CHARM**. Each village has its own specific points of interest but all have the link with water in common: in **COULON**, a lovely village at the heart of the wet marshes that has earned the label "Petites Cités de Caractère®", discover the history of the marshes at the Maison du Marais poitevin.

Other quaint villages can be visited: the "Petites cités de caractère®", **ARÇAIS** with its large port and wooden crane, **MAGNÉ** with its metal draw-bridge and its painting festival or the street-village of **LA GARETTE** and its typical architecture between the waters and the hill slopes.

◆ The **BOAT RIDES**: At the many **PIERS** you can take your choice from a huge selection of **BOAT TRIPS WITH OR WITHOUT A GUIDE**. Some have the Accueil Vélo® label:

EMBARCADÈRE CARDINAUD – Magne

embarcadere-cardinaud.fr
①.+33 (0)5 49 35 90 47

EMBARCADÈRE PRADA – Coulon

le-maraispoitevin.com
①.+33 (0)5 49 35 97 63

EMBARCADÈRE LA TRIGALE- Coulon

lemaraispoitevin.fr
①.+33 (0)5 49 35 97 63

VENISE VERTE EVASION

Sansais - la Grette
veniseverte.com
①.+33 (0)5 49 35 93 46

EMBARCADÈRE DE L'ABBAYE

Maillezais
marais-poitevin-tourisme.com
①.+33 (0)2 51 87 21 87

EMBARCADÈRE DE L'AUTIZE

Saint Sigismond
embarcadereautize.com
①.+33 (0)2 51 52 97 45



USEFUL ADDRESSES

Luggage transfer for this stage



FRANCEVELO

francevelo.bike

①.+ 33 (0)7 68 73 98 31

LA BICYCLETTE VERTE

bicyclette-verte.com

①.+ 33 (0)5 49 35 42 56

Tourist information centres



TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE FOR
NIORT-MARAIS POITEVIN-VALLÉE DE LA
SÈVRE NIORTAISE

79000 Niort - niortmaraispoitevin.com

①.+ 33 (0)5 49 24 18 79

Niort office open all year round

Coulon office open in the tourist season

Arcais office open in the tourist season

Info point at Saint Hilaire la Palud

Accommodation*



NIORT and surrounding area

HOTEL**** MERCURE NIORT MARAIS POITEVIN

27 rue de la Terraudière - 79000 Niort

accorhotels.com/fr/hotel-1269-hotel-mercure-niort-marais-poitevin/index.shtml

①.+ 33 (0)5 49 24 29 29

HOTEL*** IBIS STYLES NIORT CENTRE

32-34 avenue de Paris - 79000 Niort

ibis.com/fr/hotel-8306-ibis-styles-niort-centre-grand-hotel/index.shtml

①.+ 33 (0)5 49 24 22 21

LOGIS HÔTEL SANDRINA

43 Avenue Saint Jean d'Angely 79000 Niort France

hotel-sandrina.com ①.+33 (0)5 49 79 28 42

GUEST HOUSE LOGIS DE SÈVRES

9 rue de Fontenay - 79000 Niort

chambres-hotes-niort.fr

①.+ 33 (0)6 87 06 13 24

FURNISHED ACCOMMODATION AT MAISON

DE CHANTEMERLE

38 bis rue de la Routière - 79000 Niort

gitesdesfrenaises.com/maison-de-chantemerle.html - ①.+ 33 (0)6 08 45 54 06

. Between NIORT and DAMVIX

HOTEL*** LE CENTRAL

4 rue d'Autremont - 79510 Coulon

hotel-lecentral-coulon.com

①.+ 33 (0)5 49 35 90 20

HOTEL*** AU MARAIS

46 quai Louis Tardy - 79510 Coulon

hotel-au-marais.com

①.+ 33 (0)5 49 35 90 43

GUEST HOUSE DEMEURE DU MARAIS

1 rue de La Courade 79270 Le Vanneau-Irleau

poitou-charentes-chambre.for-system.com/f44114_fr.aspx - ①.+ 33 (0)6 35 54 56 34

GUEST HOUSE LA CABANE DE LA SÈVRE

121 route des Cabanes - 85420 Le Mazeau

cabanedelasevre.com

①.+ 33 (0)2 51 51 58 17

CAMPING**** FLOWER CAMPING DE LA
VENISE VERTE

178 route des bords de Sèvre - 79510 Coulon

camping-laveniseverte.fr/fr

①.+ 33 (0)5 49 35 90 36

CAMPING*** LE LIDON

Le Lidon - 79210 Saint Hilaire la Palud

camping-le-lidon.com

①.+ 33 (0)5 49 35 33 64

GITES DE LA LAITERIE

36 route de Saint Hilaire - 79210 Arcais

maraispoitevin-gite.com ①.+ 33 (0)6.09.60.58.23



Cyclistes dans un village du marais poitevin. © Darni



* Check out the full list of accommodation for this stage
on the web site lavelofrancette.com





Damvix

54 KM

La Rochelle

ANGERS SAUMUR THOUARS PARTHENAY NIORT DAMVIX LA ROCHELLE

DAMVIX - LA ROCHELLE

CUMULATIVE ELEVATION + 94 M 97 M



green path shared way

Levels of difficulty
Easy



Great visits



◆ **L'ILE CHARROUIN** : Departmental nature reserve, rich with a diversified flora and fauna.

This reserve, developed by the La Vendée Departmental Council is a real maze of canals and typical Marais Poitevin landscapes and waterscapes. The lines of dense ash trees called "terrées", the prairies, ponds and canals are home to an abundant fauna with such remarkable species as the purple heron or the otter.

◆ **MAILLÉ AND ITS LOVELY ROMANESQUE CHURCH** Discover this small traditional Marais poitevin village, its jetty and do not miss its parish church of which the beautiful Romanesque porch from the XIIth century and the choir from the XVth century remain.

◆ **MARANS** : One of the essential visits on this trip: the port and docks, the banks of the Sèvre Niortaise, the covered market from the XIXth century as well as Notre-Dame church with its curious glass and metal bell tower rebuilt in 1988, the ruins of the old Saint-Etienne church, the Beauregard mill from the XVIIth century still being used in the centre of the town and the Bois Dinot Park.

◆ **LA ROCHELLE** : The city of La Rochelle is like an outdoor museum packed with architectural treasures. All eras are represented: The Middle Ages with the 3 famous towers but also the arcaded streets, the Renaissance with such buildings as the Town Hall, the XVIIIth century with the prestigious great houses of the ship-builders. Finally the Halls of the XIXth century and the parks, the perfect places to stroll around near the centre of the city and a great excuse to leave your bikes aside for a short while.

Do not hesitate to visit all the different sights in the city, each with its own specific attraction. Each in its own way will seduce you.

Things to do and see



Right next to the trail

EMBARCADÈRE DES ÉCLUSES DE BAZOIN

La Ronde

polenature-maraispoitevin.fr/embarcadere-des-ecluses-marais-poitevin
①.+33 (0)5 46 56 34 46

MARAI'S POITEVIN NATURE CENTRE

Taugon

polenature-maraispoitevin.fr
①.+33 (0)5 46 56 34 46

BEAUREGARD MILL – Marans

aunis-maraispoitevin.com/decouvrir/culture-et-patrimoine/le-moulin-de-beauregard - ①.+33 (0)5 46 01 86 04

10km or more from the trail

DE MAILLEZAIS ABBEY – Maillezais

sitesculturels.vendee.fr/Abbaye-de-Maillezais - ①.+33 (0)2 51 53 66 80

DE NIEUL SUR L'AUTISE ABBEY

Nieul sur l'Autise

sitesculturels.vendee.fr/Abbaye-de-Nieul-s-l-Autise - ①.+33 (0)2 51 53 66 66

LA BRIQUETERIE

La Greve-sur-Mignon

briqueterie-lagrevemignon.com
①.+33 (0)5 46 09 21 18

THE DYKE MASTER'S HOUSE

Chaille les Marais -

mmd-maraispoitevin.fr
①.+33 (0)2 51 56 77 30

MARAI'S POITEVIN BAY HOUSE

Esnandes - maison-baiemaraispoitevin.fr

①.+33 (0)5 46 01 34 64



USEFUL ADDRESSES

Luggage transfer for this stage

FRANCEVELO

 francevelo.bike
①.+ 33 (0)7 68 73 98 31

LA BICYCLETTE VERTE

 bicyclette-verte.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 49 35 42 56

ECOVÉLO

 ecovelo17.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 00 90 00

ABEILLES TAXIS

 taxi-la-rochelle.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 41 55 55

Bicycle repairs

GARAGE CYCLES NADEAU

68 bis rue Gambetta - 17230 Marans
 garagenadeauhubert.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 01 03 50

SERVICYCLE ROCHELAIS

Atelier mobile
①.+ 33 (0)6 10 18 78 41

CYCLABLE

8 Rue Sénac de Meilhan - 17000 La Rochelle
 la-rochelle.cyclable.com
①.+ 33 (0)9 83 08 17 25

ECOVÉLO

17000 La Rochelle
 ecovelo17.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 00 90 00

CHIASSON CYCLES

17000 La Rochelle
 chiasson.fr
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 67 31 32 - +33 (0)5 46 41 17 69

Tourist information centres

AUNIS MARAIS POITEVIN TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

17230 Marans
 aunis-maraispoitevin.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 01 12 10

SUD VENDÉE LITTORAL TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

85450 Chaillé Les Marais
 ot-isles-maraispoitevin.com
①.+ 33 (0)2 51 56 37 37

SUD VENDÉE MARAIS POITEVIN TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

85420 Maillezais
 maraispoitevin-vendee.com
①.+ 33 (0)2 51 87 23 01

LA ROCHELLE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

17300 La Rochelle
 larochele-tourisme.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 41 14 68

* Check out the full list of accommodation for this stage
on the web site  lavelofrancette.com



Accommodations*

Between DAMVIX and LA ROCHELLE Hébergements*

Entre DAMVIX et LA ROCHELLE

GUEST HOUSE BARBECANE

Rive droite de la Sèvre - 17230 Marans
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 01 79 59

GUEST HOUSE LE SOLEIL COUCHANT

2 bis rue du soleil couchant - 17230 Villedoux
①.+ 33 (0)9 51 47 47 45

CAMPING** LE PETIT BOOTH

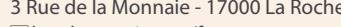
79 bis rue nationale - 85770 L'Île d'Elle
①.+ 33 (0)2 51 52 00 67

CAMPING*** DU BOIS DINOT

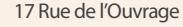
8 route de Nantes - 17230 Marans
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 01 10 51

. LA ROCHELLE and surrounding area

HÔTEL**** LA MONNAIE

3 Rue de la Monnaie - 17000 La Rochelle
 hotelmonnaie.com/fr
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 50 65 65

HÔTEL**** BEST WESTERN MASQHOTEL

17 Rue de l'Ouvrage à Cornes - 17000 La Rochelle
 masqhotel.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 41 83 33

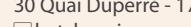
HÔTEL*** SAINT NICOLAS

13 rue sardinerie - 17000 La Rochelle
 hotel-saint-nicolas.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 41 71 55

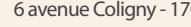
HÔTEL*** BEST WESTERN LE CHAMPLAIN

20-30 Rue Rambaud - 17000 La Rochelle
 hotelchamplain.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 41 34 66

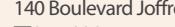
HÔTEL** LA MARINE

30 Quai Duperré - 17000 La Rochelle
 hotel-marine.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 50 51 63

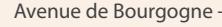
HÔTEL** ACCOSTAGE

6 avenue Coligny - 17000 La Rochelle
 accostage-hotel.fr
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 66 21 31

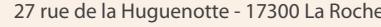
HÔTEL ** B&B

140 Boulevard Joffre - 17000 La Rochelle
 hotel-bb.com
①.+ 33 (0)8 92 78 80 48

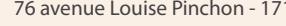
CLUB LAFAYETTE RESIDENCE

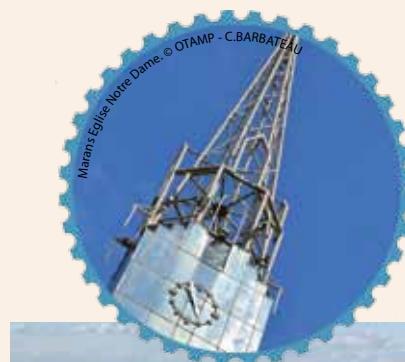
Avenue de Bourgogne - 17300 La Rochelle
 residencelafayette.org
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 68 64 64

ODALYS ARCHIPEL RESIDENCE

27 rue de la Huguenotte - 17300 La Rochelle
 odalys-vacances.com/location-vacances-la-rochelle.htm
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 44 44 56

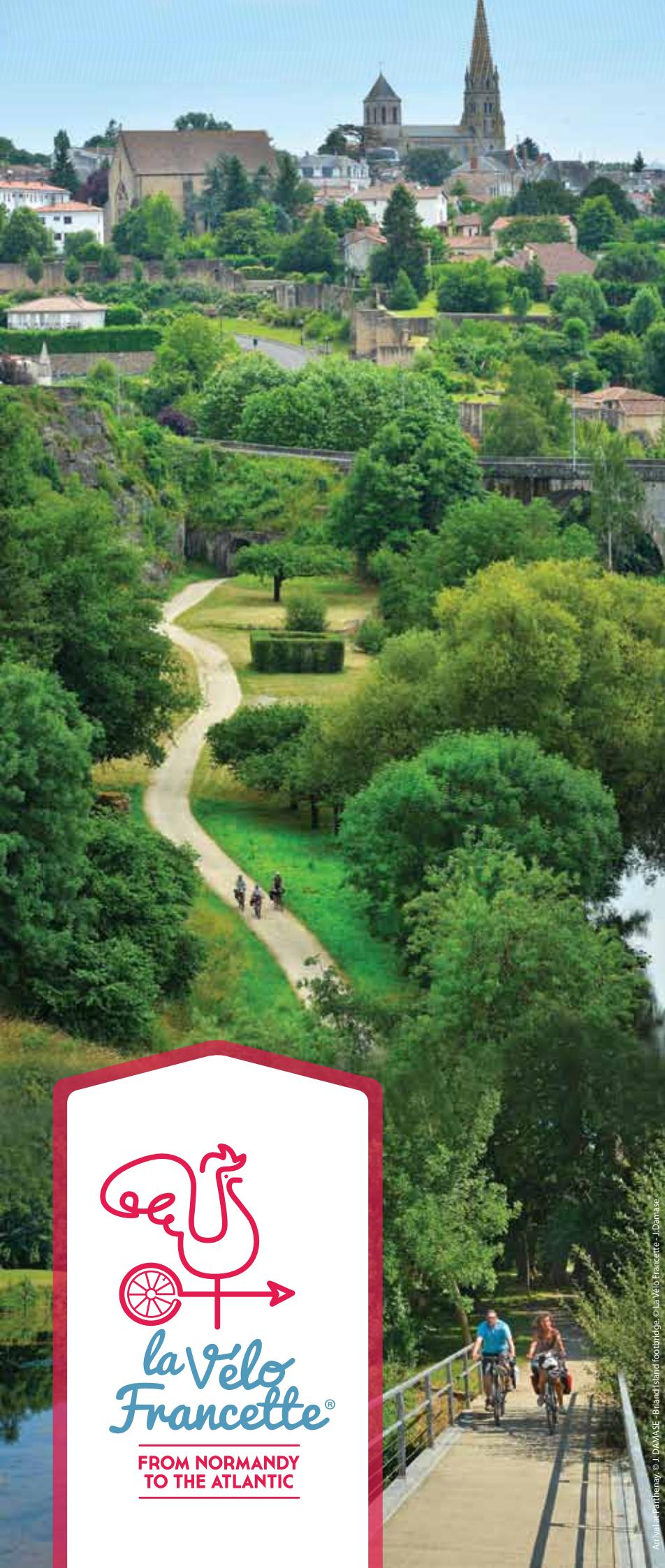
GUEST HOUSE LA MAISON DU CANAL

76 avenue Louise Pinchon - 17180 Périgny
 chambredhotelarochelle.com
①.+ 33 (0)5 46 50 60 72 - +33 (0)6 61 24 92 56

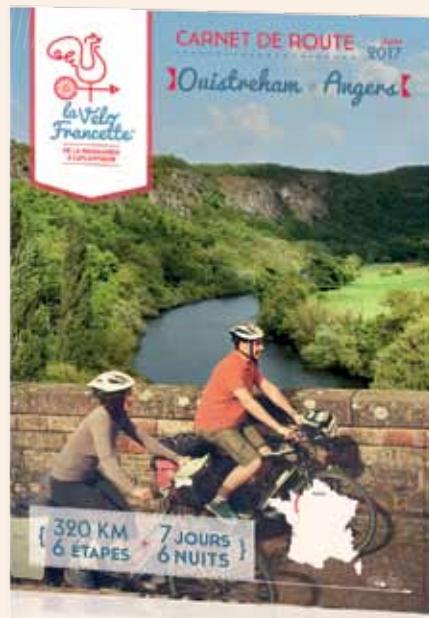


Abbaye de maillezais © sho/video





Arrival la Penhors © J.DANAE - Brandis island footbridge, Où la Vélo Francette - J.Danase



CONTACTS

REGION NORMANDIE

Grégory DELAHAYE
g.delahaye@normandie-tourisme.fr
①.+33 (0)2 32 33 94 13
②.+33 (0)6 74 71 02 91

L'AGENCE REGIONALE PAYS DE LA LOIRE

Stéphanie CHABOT
s.chabot@agence-paysdelaloire.fr
①.+33 (0)2 40 48 81 21



CONTACTS

L'AGENCE REGIONALE PAYS DE LA LOIRE

Stéphanie CHABOT
s.chabot@agence-paysdelaloire.fr
①.+33 (0)2 40 48 81 21

REGION NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE

Sandrine PAILLONCY
sandrine.paillyoncy@na-tourisme.com
①.+33 (0)5 55 11 06 02